

VA SPECIAL CLINICAL & RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE & OTHER MOVEMENT DISORDERS

Curriculum for Two-Year Fellowship

Purpose

The VA Special Clinical and Research Fellowship in Parkinson's Disease and Other Movement Disorders will offer clinicians intensive training in the diagnosis of Parkinson's disease and related disorders as well as the comprehensive and multidisciplinary care of patients with movement disorders. In addition, the fellowship will offer instruction in the methodologies needed to conduct research in movement disorders and experience in either basic or clinical research.

Eligibility

Fellows must have completed an ACGME-accredited residency in neurology and be board eligible or certified in neurology. They must have an active, unrestricted license from any state to practice medicine in the United States of America.

Overview of Curriculum

Fellows will initially receive formal orientation to the Portland VA Medical Center, PADRECC, and VHA including VA information systems and telemedicine programs. The fellow's clinical training will consist of 1) formal didactic training including assigned reading; 2) mentored, hands-on experience working in multidisciplinary movement disorder clinics; and 3) clinical rotations through other specialized movement disorder clinics serving a variety of patient populations.

Concurrently, the fellows will enter a formal didactic training in the methodologies of clinical research (Human Investigator Program), conduct one or more mentored research projects, and will have experience preparing a protocol as well as writing a paper either resulting from their studies or a review article.

Didactic Clinical Training

Didactic training will include:

- 1) Assigned readings of seminal and timely publications in the field of movement disorders. A list of such articles is included in the core curriculum for movement disorder fellowship training prepared by the American Academy of Neurology section on movement disorders. This reading list, updated as is appropriate, will serve as the core reading material. The fellows will meet with one or more of the movement disorder faculty once a week to review these materials. Didactic training will also include review of videotapes to illustrate various movement disorders.
- 2) Fellows will participate in the Oregon Health & Science University Human Investigators' Program. This is a two-year intensive didactic program leading to a certificate of training in human investigation and is supported by a K-30 Training Grant from NIH. The program director, Dr. Cynthia Morris, encourages the participation of the VA Parkinson's disease and movement disorder research fellows in the program. This program has lectures weekly with assigned readings and homework. The various areas covered include clinical research, regulatory issues, biostatistics, clinical research design, molecular biology for clinical researchers, ethical issues of clinical research, scientific writing, data presentation, evidence-based medicine, medical informatics, outcome and measurement analysis, and fundamentals of clinical trials. The program requires that the participants prepare a grant for submission to a funding agency. The course is for two years.
- 3) The fellows will participate in the weekly Journal Club, which covers both basic and clinical research that is pertinent to movement disorders.
- 4) Fellows will attend the neurology grand rounds and the noon residence conference to maintain their skills and knowledge base in general neurology.

Mentored Clinical Experience in PD Clinics and Inpatient Units

Fellows will participate in three movement disorder clinics that will expose them to a large number of patients with Parkinson's disease and other forms of parkinsonism as well as other movement disorders including dystonia, Tourette's syndrome, and various tremors. During the first year of the fellowship, the fellows present all new patients to a movement disorder faculty member. During the second year of the fellowship, the fellows present patients at their discretion. Each of these clinics will end with a brief conference that will review the patients that were seen in clinic that day and discuss issues surrounding diagnosis or management of the disorders.

In addition to these core movement disorder clinics, the fellows will rotate through other subspecialty movement disorder clinics to gain exposure to a wide variety of patients and movement disorder problems. These extra rotations will include Abnormal Tone clinic at Shriner's Hospital, Neurogenetics and Neurometabolic clinics at Doernbecher's Children's Hospital, Botulinum Toxin clinic, and Drug Study clinics. In all of these clinic settings, movement disorder faculty will supervise the fellow.

Mentored Research

The fellows can select between basic research and clinical research projects. Fellows will be involved in ongoing projects or given academic project such as writing a case report or writing a review paper at the beginning of the fellowship. The fellow will work to develop his/her own project with the supervision of a faculty mentor. This research project will also be used in the human investigations program. Mentors available for research include the entire movement disorder faculty but could also utilize faculty from other divisions and departments within the Portland VA Medical Center and Oregon Health & Science University. The fellows will meet with their mentors weekly and discuss their progress as well as other research topics.

Teaching Experience

Fellows will teach medical students and neurology residents in movement disorder clinics, medical students in small group sessions during the neuroscience block, patients and families, and will attend on VA wards two weeks each year.

Expectations of Fellows

Clinical: Fellows will develop competency in diagnosing and managing the common movement disorders.

Teaching: Fellows will present two Journal Clubs per year, and one Vtel program and one Neurology Noon Residence Conference during the course of the fellowship program. Fellows will also talk to patients groups once a year.

Research: Fellows will submit one article for publication, submit a poster for a national meeting, and develop a research proposal.

Evaluations

The Parkinson's disease and movement disorder fellows will be evaluated every three months by two of the movement disorder faculty. Evaluations will include review of feedback from supervising clinicians and review of the progress in research projects. The mentors will give direct feedback to the fellow following each evaluation.

The fellowship program will be evaluated annually by the Advisory Committee for the PADRECC as part of the annual review of the PADRECC. The long-term success of the program will be determined by the positions the fellows obtain following their training (VA vs. non-VA, academic vs. non-academic, and involvement in Parkinson's disease and movement disorders practice vs. general practice).

Resources

Fellows will be provided an office at Portland VA Medical Center equipped with a computer that has access to the VA network. Fellows will be provided with support to attend one national meeting a year.

Other

The program can be adapted to the special strengths and needs of each fellow.

MOVEMENT DISORDERS FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Weekly Schedule: The following is a sample weekly schedule for each fellowship year. The schedule may be altered depending on specialty rotations.

Year 1

Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7-8			Clinical Neuroscience Grand Rounds (7:30-8:30am)		Research
8-9	Specialty Clinical Rotation or Research	OHSU Movement Disorders Clinic (8:30-11:30am)	Specialty Clinic Rotation or Research	Basal Ganglia/ Dopamine Journal Club (8:30-9:30)	
9-10				Research	
10-11					
11-12					
12-1	OHSU Movement			Neurology Resident Conference	VA Movement
1-2	Disorders Clinic	Research	Mentoring	OHSU Botox Clinic (1:30-3:00pm)	Disorders Clinic (12:30-4:30pm)
2-3	(12:30-3:30pm)		Research		
3-4	Clinic Conference				
4-5					HIP Program (4:30-6:30pm) Fall/spring term
5-6					
6-7					

Year 2

Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
7-8			Clinical Neuroscience Grand Rounds (7:30-8:30am)		Research	
8-9	Research	Staff VA Neurology Clinic (8:30-11:30am)	Research	Basal Ganglia/ Dopamine Journal Club (8:30-9:30)		
9-10				Research		
10-11						
11-12						
12-1		Clinic Conference		Neurology Resident Conference	VA Movement	
1-2	Disorders Clinic	Research	Mentoring	OHSU Botox Clinic (1:30-3:00pm)	Disorders Clinic	
2-3	(12:30-3:30pm)		Research			(12:30-4:30pm)
3-4	Clinic Conference					
4-5			HIP Program (4:30-6:30pm)			Clinic Conference
5-6		Fall/spring term			(4:30-5:30pm)	
6-7						

Fellows have the opportunity to do 3-month clinical rotations through specialty clinics and inpatient settings. Depending on the background and training needs of the fellow, options include, but are not limited to:

- Dornbecher's Children's Hospital Neurogenetics & Neurometabolic Clinic
- Shriner's Hospital Abnormal Tone Clinic
- OHSU Metaneurobolic Clinic
- OHSU Drug Study Clinic
- DBS Study – 6-month rotation
- Botulinum Toxin clinic